



MG Edward C. Cardon

Indianhead Column

New Beginnings

20 JAN 2012



Warriors, I hope you enjoyed the holiday season and found time to relax with your Family and friends. The past several months has been filled with many opportunities and challenges for the Soldiers and Families of the 2nd Infantry Division, each of which we met head-on together, standing side-by-side with our Alliance partners in the Republic of Korea.

Following the attack on the Choenan warship and the attack against Yeonpyeong Island in 2010, the recent death of Kim Jung Il only reaffirms our critical role in maintaining security and stability here on the peninsula. It is the strength of our Alliance with our ROK partners that demonstrates we are ready to “Fight Tonight.”

The United States Government recently released a new Strategic Guidance which refocuses our defense efforts toward Asia. A key part of this document is the continued defense of Korea. As such, we can expect to host many important U.S. visitors as this document is translated into an action plan. This is an opportunity for us to build on our readiness, to help strengthen the Alliance, and to better care for our Soldiers and Families. The United States will do whatever it takes to defend the Republic of Korea. We need no clearer message than this to remind us that our mission here on the Korean Peninsula is real and vitally important to national priorities.

At the same time, our Division is experiencing increasing interest from the Republic of Korea: recently we received the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and last week we hosted the Republic of Korea Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Mr. Sung Hwan Kim, who was accompanied by the United States Ambassador to Korea Mr. Sung Y. Kim and Gen. James D. Thurman. These visitors all remind us of our critical role here on the peninsula.

Last year we modernized our Division with equipment – this year we need to train hard to improve our combat readiness and effectiveness with this new equipment. In 2012 we will continue to look for every opportunity to improve our operational capabilities. We will continue to modernize over the next year with the addition of MRAPs and other armored vehicles to increase our levels of protection and survivability.

Throughout the last year we also experienced the positive impacts of expanded Command Sponsorship in Korea. Over 1,300 Warrior Families now call the Land of the Morning Calm their home away from home. In 2012, the 2nd ID, along with the U.S. Army Garrisons, will continue to do everything possible to provide world-class support and



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ensure the necessary facilities and Army programs are in place to support our Soldiers and Families, including non-command sponsored Families.

Warriors, I look forward to the coming year of the Black Dragon with a sense of pride and excitement. I am proud of what we have accomplished over the past year – for each of you, for our Army, for our ROK partners, and for our Nation. I am excited about the road ahead and look forward to building even a stronger Division over the next year. We know our resolve could be tested at any moment and we know that we and our ROK partners will stand ready. For it is together, and only together, that we can ensure 2012 is a year that is truly, “Second to None.”